

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR
TO THE
Rural District Council of Buckingham.

1910.



Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1910.

STEEPLE CLAYDON,

February 11th, 1911.

To the Rural District Council of Buckingham.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting you with my thirteenth Annual Report, as your Medical Officer of Health, for the year ending December 31st, 1910. I beg to thank you again for the kindness and consideration which I have always received from you.

*Number of
Meetings
attended.*

During the year I have attended 24 Council meetings and 15 Committee meetings, also last June I attended a meeting in London of the Buckinghamshire Medical Officers of Health convened by the County Medical Officer of Health.

*Area of
District, &c.*

The Buckingham Rural District consists of 33 parishes, and contains an area of 54,696 acres (85 square miles), exclusive of the area covered by water, which amounts to 197 acres. In a former report (1908) I have treated of the physical and geological characters of the District.

Rainfall.

The rainfall for the year 1910 has amounted to 29·38 inches, which is a trifle less than 1909, but several inches more than the average for the last 30 years. The number of days last year on which rain was registered was 191, compared with the 193 in 1909. The wettest month was December and the driest September. More or less rain fell on each of the first 18 days in December, and there were 25 wet days in the month.

Population.

At the Census of 1901 the District contained a population of 8,124, being a decrease of 830 since the Census of 1891. There were 2,007 inhabited houses, having an average number of 4·047 persons per house. I have estimated the population as being 7,600 to the middle of 1910. The Census for 1911 will be taken in April next, and soon after that we shall know the correct population of this District, and by how much the actual and estimated numbers differ. Knowing the corrected number of inhabitants we shall be able to give a more accurate estimate of the birth and death rates. I am quite convinced, however, that a quinquennial census is a procedure which will soon become necessary.

Birth-rate.

The number of births registered during the year was 189 (boys 101, girls 88), being equal to an annual birth-rate of 24·9 per 1000 living, compared with 22·63 for 1909. The rate for Rural England and Wales for 1910 was 25·0.

Death-rate.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 105, being equal to an annual death-rate of 13·8 per 1000 living. Six deaths of residents were registered as having occurred in Public Institutions outside the District, so that the nett death-rate is 14·6 per 1000 living, compared with 12·9 for the year 1909. There is also what is known as the corrected death-rate, which means that a District containing a larger than average proportion of infants and aged people will necessarily have a higher death-rate than it would if the average distribution of the whole country prevailed. Buckinghamshire contains more than its due proportion of infants and old people, whose rate of mortality is very high, and many of the young adults of both sexes leave the country districts for the large towns. This would therefore reduce the nett death-rate by 1·6, which would then stand at 13·0. The corrected death-rate for Rural England and Wales for 1910 was 12·8. In 1909, according to the Registrar General's Annual Summary, Buckinghamshire had the lowest death-rate amongst the counties with over 100,000 inhabitants. One death due to accident was that of an engine driver on the Great Central Railway, who was killed by falling off his engine soon after leaving Calvert Station.

Infantile Mortality.

The infantile mortality, or number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1000 births registered, was 95, compared with 70 for 1909. The rate for Rural England and Wales for 1910 was 96. We have again a low infant mortality in the country at large, which has been due to the second cool, wet summer which we have experienced. In hot summers flies abound; they carry on their legs an enormous amount of germs, which they pick up on manure and all kinds of decaying matter. These germs are deposited by them in milk and other food, and thus fatal Diarrhœa is often set up in children, and also in persons of more mature age. Milk should be kept in covered vessels and in a cool place; the milk jug may be placed with advantage in a basin of cold water.

Phthisis Death-rate.

Eight deaths have been registered as caused by Phthisis during 1910, and the Phthisis death-rate would therefore be 1·05 per 1000, compared with 0·13 for 1909. The rate for England and Wales is 1·12.

*Zymotic
Death-rate.*

The Zymotic death-rate, or, as it is now called, the "Epidemic Death-rate," is 0·26 compared with *nil* in 1909, and 0·74 for Rural England and Wales (1910). The deaths (2) were caused by Measles. The Epidemic Death-rate is the term applied to the mortality from the seven principal epidemic diseases, viz.: Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever (simple continued, Typhus and Enteric), and Diarrhœa. The rate is much below that for England and Wales.

*Scarlet
Fever.*

Fifteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified without a death during the year 1910, compared with 8 cases and no death in 1909. The cases occurred in the following villages:—Thornborough 9, Preston Bissett 2, Edgcott 2, Maids Moreton 1, and Akeley 1. Seven of the cases at Thornborough were isolated in the Old Wesleyan Chapel, which was thus utilised as an Infectious Hospital. The case at Akeley was isolated in an adjoining cottage. Since 1904 there have been 130 cases of Scarlet Fever and only 1 death.

Diphtheria.

Eight cases of Diphtheria were notified without a death in 1910, compared with one case and no death in 1909. The cases occurred in the following villages:—Middle Claydon 4, Dadford 1, Poundon 1, Foxcote 1, and Marsh Gibbon 1. I am glad that your Council has agreed to pay for the bacteriological examination of suspected throats in cases where I think it necessary, and also for the free supply of anti-toxin in the District where the patients are badly able to pay themselves. The County Education Committee also pay for the bacteriological examination in cases of children who are attending elementary schools and who are suffering from suspicious throat ailments. During the last five years 40 cases of Diphtheria have been notified with three deaths.

*Enteric
(Typhoid)
Fever.*

No case of Enteric Fever has been notified in this District during the past year, and, as I stated in my last year's Report, we have only had 9 cases of this disease during the last 13 years, and four of these were imported cases. I also alluded last year to what are known as "carrier" cases, where persons who have had this complaint, who have quite recovered from it, and who may be going about their ordinary avocations or employment, are yet able to communicate the disease to others. We have had such a "Typhoid carrier" in our District during the past year—a soldier just discharged from the army. I have sent away on two occasions samples of his fœces and urine to the Lister Institute, where they were bacteriologically examined for the baccillus (Eberth-Gaffky)

*Enteric
Fever
(continued).*

of Enteric Fever. On both occasions there was a negative result. This man has now left the District, and I have acquainted the Local Government Board, and the Medical Officer of Health of the District to which he has removed of this fact. I may say that full instructions were given this "carrier" regarding the precautions which he ought to take, and disinfectants were supplied him by Mr. Bell. I am glad to have to report that this man seems to have attended to the instructions given him and to have carried them out without demur. From what has been said upon this subject, it is very necessary that one should be certain that the excreta of patients who have recovered from Typhoid Fever are free from active Typhoid bacilli. I would suggest that patients who have suffered from Typhoid Fever should have their urine and fœces examined once a month at the public expense until they showed two negative results, such patients to report themselves at stated intervals to the Health Authority of their District until they can be given a clean bill of health. It has been found that between 2 and 5 per cent. of those who have recovered from Typhoid Fever become chronic carriers of that disease.

Measles.

This disease is not notifiable in the District, so the number of cases occurring cannot be determined. Two deaths occurred from it. By the general public measles is looked upon as a trifling ailment, consequently little care is taken of the children affected with it, oftentimes with a fatal result. No death from it was registered in 1909.

*Whooping
Cough.*

This disease has been rather prevalent, but no death has resulted from it.

Erysipelas.

Eight cases of Erysipelas were notified without a death, compared with five cases in 1909. Little, if any, benefit from a public health point of view arises from the notification of this disease.

Small-pox.

No case notified. I have nothing to add to my remarks of last year on the decrease of vaccination. It is much to be feared that the large unvaccinated population now growing up will provide a fruitful field for a serious Small-pox epidemic in the near future.

Cancer.

Eleven deaths were caused by Cancer in 1910, compared with nine in 1909. The Cancer death-rate for 1910 is therefore 1.4 per 1,000, which is again an increase over the previous year, and much in excess of the rate for England and Wales, which is 0.92 for 1908. The rate for England and Wales has doubled during the last 25 years, and is only exceeded by two other countries—Switzerland and the Netherlands.

Influenza.

Two deaths were registered from influenza, compared with four in 1909.

Infectious Diseases (Notifications) Act, 1889

Thirty-one cases of infectious disease were notified under this Act during 1910, compared with fourteen cases in 1909. In the five years, 1901—1905, 272 cases were notified, and during the years 1906—1910, 126, which is a considerable decrease. I give here the usual table of infectious diseases notified in this District for the last ten years, and also a table with the estimated population, and number of deaths from the diseases indicated, for a similar period. I may point out that there have been no deaths from notifiable infectious disease for the third year in succession.

CASES NOTIFIED.

	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipe- las.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid	Mem- braneous Croup.	Typhus.	Small- pox.	Puerperal Fever.	Ttl.
1901 ..	18	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	28
1902 ..	31	10	3	0	0	0	2	0	48
1903 ...	49	9	4	0	0	0	0	1	63
1904 ...	44	7	14	1	1	0	0	2	69
1905 ...	33	9	21	1	0	0	0	0	64
1906 ...	8	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	15
1907 ...	3	6	21	0	0	0	0	1	31
1908 ...	19	5	9	2	0	0	0	0	35
1909 ...	8	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	14
1910 ...	15	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	31

DEATHS FROM NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Year.	Population.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Membran- ous Croup.	Typhus.	Small-pox.	Puerperal Fever.	Total.
1901 ...	8110 ..	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
1902 ...	8050 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1903 ..	8000 ...	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	4
1904 ...	7940 ...	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	5
1905 ...	7824 ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
1906 ...	7800 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1907 ...	7750 ...	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
1908 ...	7672 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1909 ...	7600 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1910 ...	7600 ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Systematic Inspection.

As required, I have made a systematic inspection of the District, generally in company with the Inspector of Nuisances.

L.G.B. Tuberculosis Order.

I have received in 1910 one notification (Form C). Tubercular Phthisis is otherwise not notifiable in this District. In known cases we supply instructions and disinfectants, and after death, rooms are disinfected.

*Milk
Supplies.*

This District sends a large supply of milk to London, and your Inspector, Mr. Bell, is doing good work under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order of 1885. I have, with him, made inspections of several cowsheds in the District, and I can confidently say there is a great all-round improvement. In any suspicious cases or ailments amongst the milking cows, your Council sanction the calling in of a Veterinary Surgeon. A recent report by the London County Council as to the quarterly inspection of farms shows that of 812 samples of milk examined, 99 or 12·2 per cent. proved to be tuberculous. Visits to the farms revealed that of 4,819 cows, 41 were suffering from tuberculous udders. In cowsheds in London there are 3,162 cows, and during the last three months the Council's officials have discovered 156 to be affected with disease or defects of the udder. This goes to show that in London there are proportionately nearly six times as many cows affected with tuberculosis as there are in the country, notwithstanding the fact that the structures where they are kept are much superior on the whole to country cowsheds.

*Water
Supplies.*

Water certificates for eight new cottages were applied for and granted in all of them. Eleven samples of water were taken for analysis, particulars of which are appended. The District obtains its water supply principally from wells, but several villages have supplies under the control of your Council, and these are pure and well protected from pollution. At the present time your Council is inviting tenders for laying a water main from Charndon public supply to the cottages (20) at Calvert Brickworks, a distance of about a mile and a quarter, and a tender has just been accepted. At Charndon the water is pumped by a windmill into a service reservoir, from which it is distributed by gravitation. It is a constant supply. A new well is to be sunk at Steeple Claydon in the early summer, in order to increase the present supply to the public standpipes.

*Factories,
Workshops,
&c.*

I have inspected with Mr. Bell the Factories, Workshops, Slaughter-Houses and Bakehouses in the District, and we have also made the usual systematic inspection. No unsound meat has been exposed for sale.

Schools.

The Schools in the District have been regularly inspected, and the sanitary arrangements generally have been found satisfactory. Numerous sanitary improvements have been carried out during the past year. Every case of dangerous infectious disease is notified; schools are disinfected after out-break, and before scholars return; scholars from infected houses are kept away from school, and in some cases schools are closed.

*Isolation
Hospital*

There is no permanent Isolation Hospital, but the Hospital Tents owned by the Council have been used occasionally when required. Sometimes an empty cottage or other building is used for isolation purposes ; during the past year, seven cases of Scarlet Fever were isolated and treated in the old Wesleyan Chapel, at Thornborough, and one case of Scarlet Fever was similarly dealt with in an empty cottage at Akeley. The question of the provision of a permanent Isolation Hospital has now become a pressing one, and the Council might consider it advisable to combine with a neighbouring District, and thus be enabled to build a better and more commodious building.

*New
Buildings.*

Eight new buildings have been erected during the past year.

*Sewerage
and Sewage
Disposal.*

There has been a great and steady improvement in the sewerage and drainage of the District. Sewers, house drains and connections are laid with socketted pipes, cemented and smoke tested, stone-ware gullies, inspection chambers, etc. Two villages are in the Thames watershed, and their sewage is treated by septic tanks and filters, the latter of which are frequently re-charged. Other streams are on the whole little polluted, as filtration is insisted on, previous to the passing of drains into watercourses. The dry-earth pail closet system is principally in use in the District, but there are also waterclosets with automatic flushing arrangements. Vault closets are being gradually done away with. House refuse is generally removed by the occupiers, and in most cases there is ample garden and allotment accommodation for its reception. The Inspector sees that large heaps of rubbish and refuse are not allowed to accumulate.

Written notices are served for the abatement of nuisances, to be followed if necessary by statutory notices by order of the Council, and in the last resort by prosecution. Only two cases were threatened with prosecution, and as the nuisances were abated before the Court day, the prosecutions were withdrawn.

By-laws.

By-laws exist for the following matters :—Building ; Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ; Slaughter-houses ; and laying of Water Connections.

In conclusion, I beg to thank your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Bell, for his willing help and co-operation. The number and nature of the inspections made by him, the number of notices, statutory and otherwise, served by him, and the result of the service of such notices will be found under his separate Report.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PHILIP L. BENSON, M.D., D.P.H. (CAMB.)

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. Vital Statistics for the Whole District during 1910 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		TOTAL DEATHS AT ALL AGES.		TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES	
		Num- ber.	Rate.	Num- ber.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Num- ber.	Rate.				Num- ber.	Rate.
1900	8358	214	25.6	18	84.1	129	15.4	3	7	5	127	15.2
1901	8110	187	23.1	18	96.3	109	13.4	2	2	6	113	13.9
1902	8050	172	21.4	16	93.0	98	12.2	0	0	9	107	13.3
1903	8000	185	23.1	12	64.9	107	13.4	1	1	9	115	14.4
1904	7940	187	23.5	8	42.8	100	12.6	0	0	5	105	13.2
1905	7824	202	25.8	21	103.9	110	14.0	0	0	8	118	15.1
1906	7800	170	21.8	15	88.3	100	12.8	0	0	11	111	14.2
1907	7750	181	23.4	15	82.9	102	13.2	1	0	7	109	14.1
1908	7672	179	23.3	11	61.4	98	12.8	0	0	5	103	13.4
1909	7600	172	22.6	12	69.8	88	11.6	0	0	13	101	13.2
Averages for years 1900-1909	7910	184.9	23.4	14.6	78.7	104.1	13.1	0.7	1.0	7.8	110.9	14
1910	7600	189	24.9	18	95.2	105	13.8	0	0	6	111	14.6

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	...	54,696	Total population at all ages	...	8124
			Number of Inhabited Houses	...	2007
			Average number of persons per house	...	4.047
					At Census of 1901.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.
Buckingham Union Workhouse.
Buckingham Nursing Home.
Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.
Bucks County Asylum, Stone.

The Union Workhouse is not within the District.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics in separate Localities in the Buckingham Rural District in 1910 and previous years.

YEAR.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				REGISTRATION SUB-DISTRICT OF BUCKINGHAM (RURAL).				REGISTRATION SUB-DISTRICT OF TINGEWICK.				BIDDLESDEN, TURWESTON, AND WESTBURY (BRACKLEY UNION).			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1900	8358	44	127	18	3176	66	48	5	4522	137	68	10	660	11	11	3
1901	8110	187	113	18	3048	66	39	11	4424	109	61	6	638	12	13	1
1902	8050	172	107	16	3018	63	40	7	4402	99	63	8	630	10	4	2
1903	8000	185	115	12	2995	58	52	3	4385	120	55	7	620	7	8	2
1904	7940	187	105	8	2960	65	41	2	4375	117	62	6	605	5	2	0
1905	7824	202	118	21	2910	59	51	10	4330	128	60	10	584	15	7	1
1906	7800	170	111	15	2900	52	31	2	4322	101	61	8	578	17	8	0
1907	7750	181	109	15	2860	59	42	5	4312	106	60	10	578	16	7	0
1908	7672	179	103	11	2830	54	37	5	4280	118	62	6	562	7	4	0
1909	7600	172	101	12	2800	49	38	3	4250	111	53	10	550	12	10	0
Averages of years 1900 to 1909.	7910	184.9	110.9	14.6	2950	59.1	41.9	5.3	4360	114.6	60.5	8.1	600	11.2	7.4	0.9
1910	7600	189	111	18	2800	75	42	7	4250	106	60	10	550	8	9	1

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1910 in the Buckingham Rural District

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			
	At all Ages.	At all Ages—Years.					1.	2.	3.	Total cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.				
Small-pox	7 Cases from No. 1 District.
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	8	...	2	4	2	...	2	6	0	
Erysipelas ...	8	...	...	...	...	7	1	6	0
Scarlet Fever ...	15	...	...	9	6	...	11	4	0
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Peurperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	31	...	2	13	8	7	14	16	0	

Isolation Hospital: The old Wesleyan Chapel at Thornborough was used as an Isolation Hospital.

TABLE IV.

Causes of and Ages at Death during year 1910 in the Rural District of Buckingham.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.			Deaths of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.				
								1.	2.	3.	
Small-pox											
Measles	2	1	..	1	...	...	...	2	...	...
Scarlet Fever											
Whooping Cough											
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup											
Croup											
Fever { Typhus											
Enteric											
other continued											
Epidemic Influenza	2	...	...	...	..	1	1	2	...	...
Cholera											
Plague											
Diarrhoea											
Enteritis											
Gastritis											
Puerperal Fever											
Erysipelas											
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	8	...	...	...	2	6	...	4	2	2	
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	..	...
Cancer, malignant Disease	12	...	...	...	1	5	6	3	8	1	
Bronchitis	13	4	3	...	...	...	6	1	11	1	
Pneumonia	7	...	...	1	1	2	3	6	...	1	
Pleurisy											
Other diseases of Respiratory organs											
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver }											
Venereal Diseases											
Premature Birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition											
Heart Diseases	13	...	...	1	...	9	3	7	5	1	
Accidents	5	1	...	...	1	2	1	1	4	...	
Suicides											
All other causes	42	8	2	...	...	8	24	12	27	3	
All causes	111	19	6	3	5	33	45	42	60	9	Nil

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during 1910 in the Rural District of Buckingham.
Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under 1 Year of Age.

Population estimated to middle of 1910		...	7600
Births in the year	{ legitimate	- 184	Deaths in the year { legitimate infants - 17
	{ illegitimate	- 5		{ illegitimate infants - 1
Deaths from all causes at all ages		...	111

ar	{	legitimate	-	184		Deaths in the year	{	legitimate infants	-	17
		illegitimate	-	5				illegitimate infants	-	1
		Deaths from all causes at all ages				...		111		

Deaths from all causes at all ages ... 111

Analyses of Water Supplies in 1910.

SOURCE OF SAMPLE.	PHYSICAL CHARACTER.	GRAINS PER GALLON.				NITRITES.	PARTS PER MILLION.		
		Chlorine.	Equivalent of Common Salt.	Total Hardness.	Nitrogen as Nitrates.		Free Ammonia.	Albuminoid Ammonia.	Oxygen absorbed in 15 min. at 212° F
Akeley Pump	...	7.2	11.9	27	0.3	None	0.06	0.07	0.9
" Tap	...	5.9	9.8	40	0.5	"	0.03	0.06	1.8
Chackmore Pump	...	5.0	8.2	37	1.1	"	0.05	0.1	1.2
Lillingstone Lovell	...	2.5	4.0	25	0.1	"	0.03	0.07	0.7
Maids Moreton, Duck Lake	...	2.4	3.9	26	0.02	"	0.03	0.06	1.1
Thornborough, No. 1	...	1.7	2.8	35	0.25	"	0.03	0.05	1.2
" No. 2	...	3.3	5.4	37	0.1	"	0.03	0.07	1.8
" No. 3	...	12.3	20.3	40	3.3	"	0.12	0.16	3.1
" No. 4	...	6.0	9.9	45	0.35	"	0.03	0.07	1.8
" No. 5	...	2.1	3.5	33	0.25	"	0.01	0.04	1.1
" No. 6	...	1.4	2.3	32	0.05	"	0.01	0.04	0.8

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1910, for the Rural District of Buckingham, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	6	1	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ...	24	6	0
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ...	...	...	0
Total ...	30	7	0

2.—Defects Found.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	0	0
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient ... ..	...	...	...
	unsuitable or defective	1	1	0
	not separate for sexes ... ..	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in part 3 of this report) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total	7	7	1	0

3.—Homework.

List of Outworkers (s. 107).

Number of Lists received	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Addresses of Outworkers	{received from other Councils					Nil
	{forwarded to other Councils					Nil
Notices served on occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Prosecutions.—Failing to keep or permit inspection of Lists	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Failing to send lists	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Inspections of Outworkers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Outwork in unwholesome premises (s. 108).

Instances	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Prosecutions	...	..	...	...	...	...	Nil

Outwork in infected premises (s. 109, 110).

Instances	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Orders made (s. 110).	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Prosecutions (s. 109, 110).	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year :—

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Workshops	..	...	...	...	...	...	24
(which include generally, Carpenters' Shops, Boot-makers, Dressmakers, Tailors, etc.							
Total number of workshops on Register							34

Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—

<i>Re</i> Calvert Brickworks Closet Accommodation	...	...	1
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	...	...	Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5)	{Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector...	Nil	1
Other	...	...	Nil

Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—

Certificates granted during the year	...	...	...	Nil
In use at the end of the year	...	...	...	Nil

PHILIP L. BENSON, M.D., D.P.H. (CAMB.)

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

For the Year ending December 31st, 1910.

BUCKINGHAM,

February, 1911.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council
of Buckingham.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my third Annual Report upon the Sanitary Works and improvements which have been carried out in your District during the past twelve months—1910.

Inspections. During the year I have made 1,573 inspections, re-inspections and calls.

Complaints. Numerous verbal and 33 written letters of complaint have been received, which have all received my attention.

Notices. 17 duly authorised Statutory Notices have been served where necessary. 179 preliminary notices have been issued, whilst verbal notices have again in a number of cases proved effective.

Prosecutions. During the year your Council has not found it necessary to take legal proceedings for enforcing any of your requirements. Where in certain instances summonses were issued, the cases were withdrawn owing to the immediate compliance on the part of the owners upon whom the summonses were served.

The usual several systematic house-to-house inspections of the District have been made by me, in company with your Medical Officer of Health, with satisfactory results.

Infectious Disease. During the year 15 cases of Scarlet Fever and 8 cases of Diphtheria were notified. In all cases it was my endeavour to prevent the spread of infection. Where isolation could not be obtained in the homes of the cases, your Council provided temporary isolation hospitals; and where isolation was carried out in the home of the patient disinfectants were freely provided, and all necessary instructions were given on the pamphlet issued by your Medical Officer of Health in reference to such cases. During the year I paid 60 visits to infected houses and isolation hospitals. The following cases were reported in the different villages :—

*Infectious
Diseases
(continued).*

Thornborough	...	...	...	9	(Scarlet Fever)
Akeley	...	...	...	1	"
Maids Moreton	...	...	...	1	"
Edgcott	...	...	...	2	"
Preston Bissett	...	...	...	2	"
Dadford	...	...	...	1	(Diphtheria)
Foscott	..	...	...	1	"
Poundon	...	..	...	1	"
Middle Claydon	...	..	...	4	"
Marsh Gibbon	...	...	...	1	"
Total				23	

In all necessary cases thorough disinfection was carried out upon infected premises. Clothes, etc., were in a number of cases fumigated.

At Thornborough a temporary isolation hospital was provided, and every precaution was taken for preventing the spread in the village.

Infectious disease in a number of cases was imported into the District.

At Akeley a case of Scarlet Fever occurred in a cottage where proper and effective isolation could not be carried out. The case was temporarily isolated, and no further cases occurred.

*Housing and
Town
Planning Act,
1909.*

During the year much attention has been given to the housing question by your Council, and efforts are being made to carry out the requirements of this Act. Improvements to cottages have in a number of cases been voluntarily carried out by owners during the year.

Several dilapidated dwellings exist in your District, and to the worst of such dwellings your Council has devoted attention. Minute inspections of such have been made and reported upon, and in nearly all cases your Orders have been complied with. Numerous improvements to properties have been carried out, though the enforcement of the requirements of the Act entails a large work and problem in your agricultural District, where cottages are not of the modern working class type.

From my summary you will note that a greater number of houses have been closed than those which have been built. Again in many cases the houses have been closed voluntarily. There seems little desire to build cottages in the District, and in some cases the owner will close rather than make the house reasonably fit for human habitation.

Where notices are served in cases of overcrowding, there is the greatest difficulty in having such notices complied with, owing to the size of the average cottage in the District. On the other hand, a difficulty arises in the fact that the average wage of the agricultural labourer is 14/- per week, and in numerous cases a large family has to be maintained on this sum, hence the difficulty in providing the modern cottage.

*Housing, &c.,
Act (contd.)*

The following is a summary of the works, etc., carried out :—

Dirty houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	21
Houses limewashed	...	...	...	...	21
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	5
Houses closed	...	...	...	...	12
Houses placed in habitable repair	...	...	...	...	40
„ renovated without closing orders	...	...	...	...	38
„ „ after closing orders	...	...	...	...	3
Closing orders made	...	...	...	...	9
Notices served on Landlords to execute works under Section 15	...	...	...	...	10
Notices of time and place for consideration of demolition	...	...	...	...	2
Notice of closing order becoming operative	...	...	...	...	1
Notices on tenants of closing orders which have become operative	...	...	...	...	2

*New
Buildings.*

During the past twelve months 8 new cottages have been erected in modern style, and, as Building Surveyor to your Council, the cottages were frequently inspected whilst in course of erection, and strict observations of the Building Bye-laws were enforced. The number of cottages erected is comparatively small to the size of the District, but with the stricter regulations enforced under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, it is hoped that the better class house will be eventually provided throughout the District.

The following cottages have been erected :—Akeley, 2 ; Steeple Claydon, 2 ; Thornton, 2 ; Barton Hartshorn, 2 : total, 8. Water certificates were applied for by the owners of the new cottages, and were in each case granted.

Several important additions and improvements have also been carried out to existing properties in the District.

At Turweston building additions have been made at the Manor House ; also at Tingewick House, Tingewick.

At Barton Hartshorn and Poundon important improvements have been made, whilst in the villages throughout the District generally a great number of properties have been renovated.

*Factory and
Workshop's
Act, 1901.*

The Factories and Workshops in the District have been periodically inspected by your Medical Officer and myself. The District being almost entirely agricultural, few workshops or factories exist, the only factory of importance being Calvert Brickworks. In the early part of the year I noted, on making an inspection, the very foul state of the privy accommodation on these works, which I condemned. As a result, 9 new and proper earth closets were erected, and the serious nuisance was abated.

24 workshops exist in the District. Notices have in numerous instances been given for lime-washing, which have been obeyed.

In no case has overcrowding been found.

Bakehouses. 10 Bakehouses exist in the District, all of which are periodically inspected. The bakehouses are generally found to be in good order, and regular lime-washing has been carried out.

Slaughter-houses. 16 Slaughter-houses exist in the District, all of which are regularly inspected. The enforcement of strict cleanliness and frequent lime-washing has been attended to. Verbal and written notices have been served where necessary.

During my inspections no unsound meat has been discovered exposed in any of the slaughter-houses.

One application for a slaughter-house license was received. The license could not be granted, owing to the position of the proposed slaughter-house. An application was also received for a license to erect premises for use and occupation as a slaughter-house, which was granted.

In two cases I discovered that slaughtering was being carried out on unlicensed and unregistered premises. The trades were in both cases stopped.

Canal Boats' Act, 1877-1884 During the year 7 canal boats have been inspected. All were found to be in good order, with one exception. In this case a death had occurred on the boat, and upon making an inspection I found the boat was seriously overcrowded. I issued the complaint form, which was returned, reporting that the overcrowding had been abated. The Canal in your District is not frequently used.

Petroleums Act. I have made a number of inspections where necessary in connection with the Petroleums Act.

Three applications were received for licences for the storage of carbide of calcium and 1 application was received for a licence to store petrol. The licenses were in all cases granted.

Schools. I have made frequent inspections of the sanitary arrangements at the schools in your District, and during the year numerous sanitary improvements have been carried out on school premises.

At Padbury Schools extensive alterations and improvements were carried out. More light and ventilation was provided, and the whole of the sanitary arrangements were put into good order. Improvements to drains, conveniences, etc., were carried out at Chetwode, Steeple Claydon, Turweston, Chackmore and Thornborough Schools.

Offensive Trades. No offensive trades are carried on in your District.

Water Supplies. During the year I have taken and submitted 18 samples of water for analysis. In most cases the samples were found to be good, but, where necessary, wells were cleansed, covered and protected.

*Water
Supplies
(continued).*

A considerable difficulty had to be dealt with at Padbury. The water supply failed owing to the syphon becoming out of order and to large leakages in the mains. The necessary repairs were, however, carried out, and the supply has since been abundant.

At Steeple Claydon the supply failed for some considerable time in the summer months, and water was only obtainable at certain hours of the day. Your Council proposes to increase the supply by sinking a further well in the watershed at Keeble Leys, where a good spring has been discovered.

Your Council has now under consideration a scheme for providing the 20 cottages at Calvert Brickworks, in the parish of Charndon, with a proper water supply. For years water has had to be carted in a water cart to these cottages from the village of Charndon, a distance of about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles. This means of providing water is most unsatisfactory, and numerous complaints in the matter have been received.

All broken standpipes, fittings, leakages and other defects discovered in connection with water supplies have been repaired.

At Charndon the fittings to the wind engine were overhauled, and the works were put into good order.

The storage tanks at Cowley, Water Stratford and Charndon have been thoroughly cleansed.

Public and private wells have been put into good order in numerous cases.

10 wells have been cleansed, protected and covered.

7 standpipes have been repaired.

6 pumps have been repaired.

6 mains have been repaired.

In certain cases notices were issued for the prevention of the waste of water.

During the year 2 wells have been closed.

During the year the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in your District have been as regularly and periodically visited as possible. More frequent visits have been paid to premises where the cowsheds were of defective structure or where works of re-modelling were being proceeded with. There still remain a few cowsheds which will either have to be condemned or totally re-modelled. Your District comprises a very large area, it has therefore been impossible to enforce, up to the present, the whole of the works which must necessarily be carried out in cowsheds, though good improvements are being constantly and satisfactorily proceeded with. Strict cleanliness has been encouraged, with good results. Cowsheds have been periodically limewashed, and wherever dung had accumulated, or cowyards were found to be in bad condition, verbal or written notices had the desired effect. The cleanliness of cowsheds and coolhouses, including utensils,

*Dairies',
Cowsheds' and
Milkshops'
Order.*

*Dairies', etc.
Order
(continued).*

milk coolers, etc., has been one of the most important of my inspections.

Strict care has also been taken to prevent the contamination of any infection from milk supplies. Where infectious disease has existed, no persons in whom there was any likelihood of infection were allowed to have anything to do with milk supplies.

During the year ten persons have become registered as cow-keepers. The register has been revised, and 8 names have been taken off owing to change of tenancy, etc. There are now 189 registered persons in the District.

During the year 10 final notices were served under the Order :—

Number of cowsheds condemned	...	..	...	4
„ new cowsheds erected	...	...	..	7
„ cowsheds paved	...	...	...	18
„ „ dripped and drained	...	...	...	18
„ „ generally renovated	...	...	...	10
„ „ enlarged for cubic space	...	...	...	3
„ „ lighted	...	...	...	3
„ „ ventilated	...	...	...	3

*Sewerage
Disposal.*

The whole of the filter tanks throughout your District, including those at Marsh Gibbon, Edgcott, Steeple Claydon, Westbury, and Preston Bissett, have been periodically cleansed.

The Thames Conservancy Board Inspectors have again during the year frequently visited and inspected the tanks at Marsh Gibbon and Edgcott, and much time and trouble has been taken in endeavouring to produce effluents suitable to meet their requirements. On each of my inspections I have found the effluent to be in my opinion satisfactory. I have submitted samples to your Council, which have seemed to be of a most satisfactory nature.

Unfortunately, both Marsh Gibbon and Edgcott are low-lying, water-logged villages, susceptible to frequent floods, and at times during the wet season the tanks are inaccessible owing to the flooding.

At Water Stratford and Preston Bissett the sewerage out-falls have been attended to, and have been put into better order.

Sewers.

The sewerage of several of the small villages in your District has been attended to. Numerous problems have presented themselves, and careful consideration to all such problems has been given. (There are but few large villages in the District.)

Good work has during the year been carried out in sewerage. I would in particular mention the drainage works which have been carried out at the College, Marsh Gibbon; Little Marsh, Marsh Gibbon; Poundon, Chackmore, Padbury, Shalstone and Turweston, where serious nuisances which have for a number of years required attention have been put into good order.

At the premises known as the "College," Marsh Gibbon, where a number of small cottages exist, the sewer was found to be formed of 3in. agricultural pipes. A new sewer was inserted, and the drainage of this part of the village is now in good order.

At Little Marsh, Marsh Gibbon, the drainage from the several cottages discharged into a ditch which ran alongside the high road. A serious nuisance existed, complaints of which were frequent. The works were carried out voluntarily by Messrs. Castle, Field and Castle, Oxford.

At Poundon nuisances existed from the overflow to the cess-pools of the Mansion, the farmyards and other premises; two rows of cottages at the lower end of the village had foul drainage systems to the premises. I approached the agents for the property (Messrs. Castle, Field and Castle, Oxford), in the matter, and it was agreed that the whole of the village should be drained to my approval and satisfaction. The works were carried out, and, with the exception of a small outlay on the part of your Council, the works were done gratuitously.

At Chackmore the sewers were attended to and put into order. The works carried out in this village were of importance, as the sewer which existed had become choked owing to a back fall, and the necessity of immediate attention being given to the matter was strongly in evidence as the work progressed.

At Padbury open sewer ditches and defective sewers have been put into good order by the laying of proper ones, and long standing nuisances have been abated.

At Turweston and Shalstone old defective and foul stone culverts were abolished as sewers, and excellent lengths have been inserted to replace them. In all necessary cases house connections were made good to the sewer and relaid by the owners.

Several further smaller works have been carried out in the District, which include :—

A new sewer laid in Spiers' Lane, Marsh Gibbon, to replace a foul open ditch.

A length of sewer in Brian Lane, Padbury, to replace a defective sewer.

A length of sewer in Back Lane, Adstock, to replace a defective sewer.

Blockages have been removed and repairs carried out to sewers whenever necessary; several manholes have been inserted, and proper ventilation has in certain instances been provided.

Surface water inlets have whenever necessary been trapped by your Highway Surveyor, Mr. Treadwell, and at Padbury several nuisances caused from untrapped openings have been remedied by the County Council.

The sewer ditches throughout the District have been regularly cleansed.

In conclusion, I would again thank the Chairman and Members of your Council for the kindness and consideration which you have shown me during the year; I would also thank Dr. Benson, your Medical Officer of Health, for his valuable advice and instructions, and also the Clerk and the Road Surveyor for the valuable assistance always given.

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

LEONARD BELL, M.I. MUN. E. & C.R. SAN. I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of the Inspector's Work for 1909.

Number of houses for which drains have been provided	...	...	...	...	102
„ drains repaired	...	...	...	...	29
„ „ un-stopped	...	...	...	...	12
„ gully traps inserted to replace defective or un-trapped openings	...	...	...	...	176
„ manholes built	...	...	...	...	106
„ cellars drained	...	...	...	...	2
„ yards drained	...	...	...	...	42
„ drains ventilated	...	...	...	...	22
„ piggeries paved and drained	...	...	...	...	26
„ stables drained	...	...	...	...	4
„ cesspools or septic tanks of proper construction inserted	...	...	...	...	14
„ cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	2
„ cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	5
Total					542

SINKS—

Number of new trapped sink stones provided	...	...	...	18
„ foul sink stones repaired or trapped	...	...	...	17
Total				35

URINALS—

Number of new urinals erected	...	...	...	4
„ urinals paved, drained, channelled or repaired	...	...	...	5
Total				9

CLOSETS—

Number of new water closets constructed replacing earth closets	26
„ earth closets constructed replacing privy middens	106
„ new pails provided	4
„ closets repaired, limewashed or cleansed ...	13
	<hr/>
	149

VARIOUS—

Number of yards paved	34
„ yard pavings repaired	5
„ accumulations of deposit removed	63
„ piggeries abolished	13
„ houses provided with guttering to eaves ...	11
„ roofs repaired	28
„ stables drained	4
„ floors repaired	6
„ houses lighted and ventilated	5
„ stagnant ponds abolished	2
„ ash pits or bins inserted	30
„ dangerous structures made safe	13
	<hr/>
Total	214

N.B.—Usual items included in this summary are in certain instances omitted and inserted in the summary under the Housing, etc., Act, 1909.

Further details are given in my summary report to the County Medical Officer.

L.B.



